1903.

WILLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Willington Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my report for the year 1903 :—

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Estimated Population, 1903.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Zymotic-rate.	Infant Mortality.
Willington ...	5188	34·88	19·85	3·08	187
Stockley ..	2719	40·45	11·03	1·10	100
Whole District	7907	36·80	16·82	2·40	154

DEATHS.

During 1903 there were 92 deaths registered as having occurred in Willington, and 30 in Stockley, making for the former a rate per thousand of the population of 17·73 and for the latter 11·03; the rate for the whole district being 15·42.

There were 11 deaths which occurred in institutions out of the district thus making a rate of 16·82, but as two of these were strangers to this district and two more deaths were also of visitors from other districts the actual death-rate should be 16·31. This is ·87 per thousand above the rate for the previous year.

Of the deaths which occurred in institutions, 4 were in the Durham County Hospital, 4 in the Union Workhouse at Durham, 2 in the Infectious Hospital, Tindale Crescent, and 1 iu the County Lunatic Asylum, Sedgefield.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In Willington there were 16 deaths from infectious disease. Under 5 years of age there were :—Whooping Cough 2, Typhoid Fever 1, Diphtheria 1, and Diarrhœa 10. In persons over 5 there were :—Diphtheria 1, and Diarrhœa 1. This makes a rate of 3·08 per thousand. The Typhoid Fever case was in a person who was a visitor to this district and who had evidently contracted the disease before arriving here. She was sent to the infectious Hospital.

In Stockley there were 3 deaths, viz. :—Whooping Cough 2, and Diarrhœa 1, all under 5 years, and making a rate of 1·10.

The rate for the whole district was 2·40 per thousand persons, which is 1·14 above the rate for 1902.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 34 deaths in children under 1 year of age in Willington representing 18·7 per cent. of the births registered during the year.

In Stockley there were 11 deaths. making 10 per cent. of the births, and in the whole district 45 deaths or 15·4 per cent. This is 2·4 per cent. above that for the previous year.

HEART DISEASE.

This caused 7 deaths in Willington, and 2 in Stockley, representing a rate of 1·13 per thousand for the whole district, which is the same as that for the previous year.

PHTHISIS.

6 deaths took place from Consumption among persons belonging to Willington, Stockley having no deaths. This represents a rate for the whole district of ·75 and is ·64 less than that for 1902.

BRONCHITIS.

This caused 8 deaths in Willington, 5 being under 5 years of age and 3 over 5, and representing a rate of 1·54 per thousand.

In Stockley there were 5 deaths, 1 under and 4 over 5 years of age, and making a rate of 1·83.

The rate for the whole district equals 1·64 per thousand, and is ·38 above that for the previous year.

PNEUMONIA.

From this there were 9 deaths in Willington, 8 being under and 1 over 5 years of age and representing a rate of 1·73.

In Stockley there were 2 deaths, 1 under and 1 over 5 years of age, and making a rate of ·73 ; the rate for the whole district being 1·39, or ·38 more than the previous year.

BIRTHS.

In Willington there were 99 males and 82 females registered, making a total of 181.

In Stockley there were 61 males and 49 females, making a total of 110

This makes for the whole district 291, which is 7 more than the births for the preceding year. The rate is thus 36·80.

INQUESTS.

Causes of death as found at Coroner's inquests :—

Killed on North-Eastern Railway	..	1
Burns by Lucifer Matches ..	...	1
Suicide by Shooting ...	...	1
Killed by fall of stone in Coal Mine	...	1

3 deaths were uncertified.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.						
		Number	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893 ...	7820	285	36·44	63	221	166	21·22	...	...	...	...	...
1894 ...	7828	280	35·76	38	135	131	16·60	...	...	...	...	...
1895 ...	7837	324	41·34	73	225	158	20·16	...	...	1	159	20·28
1896 ...	7845	314	40·02	46	146	154	19·63	...	...	4	158	20·14
1897 ..	7853	281	35·78	34	121	133	16·93	...	...	3	136	17·31
1898	7862	306	38·92	58	189	132	16·78	...	...	3	135	17·17
1899 ...	7870	263	33·41	44	167	130	16·51	...	...	4	134	17·02
1900 ...	7878	285	36·17	66	231	161	20·43	...	...	4	165	20·94
1901 .	7887	304	38·54	51	167	152	19·27	...	...	8	160	20·28
1902	7897	284	35·96	37	130	120	15·19	...	..	5	125	15·82
Averages for Years 1893 to 1902.	7857	292	37·23	51	173	143	18·27	...	..	4	146	14·89
1903 ...	7907	291	36·80	45	154	122	15·42	...	...	11	133	16·82

* Rates in Column 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages	7,907	At Census of 1901.
No. of inhabited houses	1,607	
Average number of persons per house ...	4·9	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 3795·138

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District :—None.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—Durham Union Workhouse ; Durham County Hospital.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District :—County Asylum, Sedgefield.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous Years.

Names of Localities.	Whole District.				Willington.				Stockley.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*a.*	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*a.*	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*
1893 ..	7820	285	166	63	5120	178	111	38	2700	107	55	25
1894 ..	7828	280	131	38	5127	180	94	24	2701	100	37	14
1895 ..	7837	324	159	73	5134	220	107	43	2703	104	52	30
1896 ..	7845	314	158	46	5141	205	104	37	2704	109	54	9
1897 ..	7853	281	136	34	5147	185	95	21	2706	92	41	13
1898 ..	7862	306	135	58	5155	207	93	39	2707	99	42	19
1899 ..	7870	263	134	44	5161	177	82	24	2709	86	52	20
1900 ..	7878	285	165	66	5168	197	114	47	2710	88	51	19
1901 ..	7887	304	160	51	5175	211	103	34	2712	93	57	17
1902 ..	7897	284	125	37	5182	200	91	29	2715	84	34	8
Averages of Years 1893 to 1902.	7857	284	146	51	5151	196	99	33	2706	96	47	17
1903 ..	7907	291	133	45	5188	181	103	34	2719	110	30	11

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.		No. of Cases Removed to Hospial from each Locality.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Willington.	Stockley.	Willington.	Stockley.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards				
Diphtheria	13	...	3	7	2	1	...	6	7	1	...
Membranous Croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	..
Erysipelas	11	1	...	2	1	7	...	5	6	...	...
Scarlet Fever	78	1	33	40	2	2	...	70	8	5	1
Enteric Fever	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	3	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...
Totals	108	2	37	51	7	11	...	85	23	7	1

Isolation Hospital :—Tindale Crescent, Bishop Auckland.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (At all ages)		Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Willington.	Stockley.	
Whooping Cough	4	3	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	3	..	2	..	..	1	.	2	1	..
Diarrhœa	12	8	3	1	..	..	..	11	1	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Phthisis	6	..	..	2	1	3	.	6	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	9	2	5	..	1	..	1	9	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	3	1	..
Bronchitis	13	4	2	..	1	1	5	8	5	..
Pneumonia	11	5	4	..	..	2	..	9	2	..
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Premature Birth	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Heart Diseases	9	..	..	1	..	4	4	7	2	..
Accidents	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	..	..
Suicides	1	..	..		..	..	1	1	..	..
All other causes	46	17	1	3	2	11	12	35	11	..
All causes	133	45	19	8	7	29	25	103	30	..

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases has been in operation since 1891.

An Infectious Diseases Hospital was erected in 1900, at Tindale Crescent, near Bishop Auckland, but owing to the distance (7 miles) from this district, only 8 cases have been removed there during the year. This is the first of the two hospitals to be built by the Auckland, Shildon, and Willington Joint Hospital Board, and the second is fast approaching completion at Job's Hill, a convenient distance from this district, and expected soon to be ready for the admittance of cases, so that we may hope that there will be a greater desire on the part of parents to benefit their children when suffering from infectious diseases by allowing them to be removed for hospital treatment, and thus prevent an undue spreading by being kept in the densely populated parts of the district.

Of the 8 cases which were removed to the Tindale Crescent Hospital, 6 were discharged cured, all having suffered from Scarlet Fever; and 2 died, 1 of Diphtheria, and the other of Enteric Fever.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

6 cases of Diphtheria occurred in Willington, 1 under and 5 over 5 years of age; 2 of them were fatal, and making a rate of ·38.

7 cases occurred in Stockley, 2 under and 5 over 5 years. There was also 1 case of Membranous Croup over 5 years of age. There were no fatalities. Death-rate for the whole district equals ·25.

The Council supplies Diphtheritic Serum gratuitously through the M.O.H. to medical practitioners who desire to employ it in cases occurring in the district.

INFLUENZA.

This was prevalent from the commencement of the year till May, when it disappeared. It re-appeared in September, and was again more or

less prevalent to the end of the year. It was not of a severe type, there being only 3 deaths attributed to it, 2 in Willington, and 1 in Stockley, and representing a rate of ·37 per thousand.

MEASLES.

No cases were ascertained. This is not notifiable in this district.

TYPHOID FEVER.

There were 3 cases of Typhoid Fever in Willington, 1 under and 2 over 5 years of age, and caused 1 death, but as this was in a visitor to the district, who had evidently contracted the disease elsewhere, we are without a death-rate from this affection.

ERYSIPELAS.

5 cases occurred in Willington, 1 under and 4 over 5 years of age. In Stockley there were 6 cases over 5 years; there were no deaths.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 70 cases in Willington, 29 being under 5 and 41 being over 5 years. In Stockley there were 8 cases, 5 under and 3 over 5 years of age. None of these were fatal.

No cases were traced to the milk supply. Disinfectants were used, and all precautions taken to prevent a general spread, 5 cases being removed to hospital. The parents of others could not be induced to allow their children to be taken to hospital.

DIARRHŒA.

As the summer heat was not great, there was no prevalence of Diarrhœa, though cases occurred in June and September, and isolated cases during the other months. From it there were 11 deaths in Willington, 10 being under 5 and 1 over 5 years of age. In Stockley only 1 death occurred, under 5 years. The death-rate for the whole district equals 1·51.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Cases occurred during the year, and caused 2 deaths in Willington under 5 years of age, and also 2 in Stockley under 5, representing a rate of ·50 per thousand.

SMALL-POX.

No cases occurred.

DISINFECTION.

The Council provides disinfectants to infected houses.

Stoving has been done in the majority of instances, and bedding has been disinfected when found necessary.

VACCINATION.

The majority of children born in the district have been vaccinated.

GENERAL SANITATION.

(*a.*) Character of the District.—The district of Willington is composed of the village of Willington, together with the Brancepeth Colliery Rows, and has a population of 5,188, and an area of 1551·759 acres.

The district of Stockley comprises Oakenshaw and Pagebank Collieries, and has a population of 2,719, and an acreage of 2342·379.

The whole district has a natural drainage, owing to the sloping of the land towards the River Wear.

(*b.*) Pollution of Streams.—The following streams run through the district:—Willington burn, Old Hall beck, and Page Bank beck, into all of which sewage is discharged and carried into the River Wear. At Page Bank Colliery the sewage discharges directly into the river.

The Council is laying down sewerage works on the Stoddart System for the purification of the sewage before its passage into the river, at an expenditure of about £2,000, to answer for 6,500 of the population, and it is expected that they will shortly be completed.

CHIEF INDUSTRIES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE HEALTH OF THE PERSONS EMPLOYED

The trade of the district comprises :—Coal Mining, Coke-making, and the Manufacture of Bricks, Pipes, &c. The mines are well ventilated, and free from gas. Accidents which occur are mainly from fall of stone. The men and boys are, in general, of a healthy state of body, and do not suffer from any special form of disease arising from their employment.

SMOKE NUISANCES AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Coke is manufactured largely in the district, but there is no nuisance attached to it, as the waste heat is conducted from the ovens to tall chimneys.

BURIAL GROUND.

A Cemetery is situated in a central position, and is sufficient for immediate future requirements.

There is also a large Roman Catholic Cemetery.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.

There are a number of W.C.'s, and all newly-built houses have either W.C.'s or ash-closets constructed, but the general accommodation in the district is the ordinary open privy and ashpit, which are generally very large and defective in construction, and often in bad repair. Owing to these defects the liquid contents are largely soaked up by the surrounding soils, which thus becomes contaminated by noxious matters, and in the heat of summer is a source of danger to the public health, undoubtedly causing Diarrhœa and Enteric Fever.

Several of the newly built houses have both W.C.'s and ash-closets constructed.

The contents are carted away partly to the Council's depôt at Low Willington, partly to the tip belonging to the Colliery Owners, and partly to the fields for the purpose of manuring.

In Stockley the Colliery Owners provide their own tips.

As there is no other means of access to the back yards of many houses, the contents of the midden-privies have to be wheeled through the passages, and are deposited in the front streets. This causes a nuisance, and the streets being thus fouled, probably accounts for cases of Enteric Fever and Diarrhœa, and ought to be remedied by substituting for the midden-privies W.C.'s, and pails or buckets for the dry refuse.

SCAVENGING.

The whole district is scavenged by the Council by contract. On the whole this has been done very well, and any defects have been quickly attended to.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

The drains are made with sanitary pipes, and are all now, I believe, properly trapped.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are none now in the district.

BYE-LAWS.

These are allowed by the Local Government Board, founded on the Model Bye-Laws.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 6 registered slaughter-houses in Willington and Stockley, and all have been found in a sanitary condition.

DAIRIES AND MILK SUPPLY.

The bulk of the milk is supplied by farmers, but some of it is supplied by cow-keepers. The dairies have been inspected, and found clean, and no disease has been traced to this source.

COW SHEDS.

These have been inspected, and found to be kept in fairly good order. Most of them are of old construction, and have faulty ventilation. The ordinary method of ventilation by pipes or open-spaces near the heads of the animals is what prevails, very few having top ventilation, and some are badly lighted. These defects have been mentioned, and it is promised to rectify them. Lime-washing generally has been well attended to.

DWELLINGS OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The majority of these are good, being roomy and well-lighted, built of bricks, and chiefly have two storeys. They obtain their ventilation by the ordinary means—doors, windows, and fire-places. There are some which are composed of only one room and an attic, and are badly lighted. Some have two rooms on the ground floor, and some have, in addition, a low attic, which is unceiled, and they are both damp and badly lighted. It is intended, I believe, to improve 38 of these shortly by raising and making well-lighted upstairs rooms.

Back-to-back houses exist in Mill Street, High Street, and Commercial Street, in Willington, and also at Page Bank Colliery.

Spouting generally is in fair order, but some of it still requires attention.

I may mention here again that the back streets are in a deplorable condition, and in many places highly dangerous. They ought to be properly made, paved, and channelled, and taken over by the Council

INSPECTION AND RESULTS.

Inspections have been made during the year, and 106 informal written notices and 19 formal notices have been served. 117 of these have been attended to.

DIRECTION OF THE WORK OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

The Inspector receives his instructions from the Council, and works jointly with the M.O.H.; he also fulfils the duties of Surveyor. At the present time he acts as Clerk of the Works for the new Sewage Disposal Works.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Nil.

NEW BUILDINGS.

6 houses have been built and occupied in Hunwick Lane, and 5 others are almost completed; 16 workmen's houses of four rooms are approaching completion at Oakenshaw; the building of a house and church is proceeding in the Catholic grounds; a large joiners' workshop has been erected in Lydia Street; and a new wing has been added to the Co-operative Stores.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat has always been found to be good.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This is carried out by the Inspector to the County Council. No proceedings, so far as I know, have had to be taken in this district.

LIGHTING.

The district is lighted by gas; but Page Bank is lighted by means of oil lamps.

WATER SUPPLY.

There is a good supply of pure, soft water to the district from the Weardale and Shildon Water Company's Mains. This, however, is not allowed for the flushing of drains in the hot summer months, and it is much needed at such time.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE.

A hose and reel are kept at the Council's yard, in Albion Place. There are two keys for the shed, one at Mr. Wightman's, near the place, and the other at the Police Station.

No fire has taken place during the year.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

22 ash-closets and 5 water-closets have taken the place of midden-privies.

25 houses have been provided with a covered drain and trapped gullies (one for every two houses) in place of a defective open channel.

11 backyards have been either repaved with bricks or laid in cement concrete.

36 defective traps have been remedied.

Pavement of the footpaths in Mill Street has been completed.

The footpath on the south side of the Main Street has been completed as far as the top of High Street.

A 24 inch sanitary pipe sewer has been laid in place of an open channel at Oakenshaw.

8 Licensed Houses have had extra W.C.'s and urinals put in, yards re-laid, and in some instances bath-rooms provided.

The Main Street has been steam-rolled from the top of the town to the Cemetery.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Appended is a report bearing on this Act :—

Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Administration of the Act in the Urban Sanitary District of Willington during the year 1903.

(A) Classification and Inspection.

Total number of Workshops in the District, as per Register :—13, including 12 Tenement Workshops and 1 Retail Bakehonse.

Total number of visits of inspection made during 1903 (*a*) by M.O.H. :—30 ; (*b*) by Sanitary Inspector, 30.

Note as to the chief Workshop Industries in the District :— Dressmaking, Saddlery, Bootmaking, Cabinet-making, and Joinery.

(B) SANITATION.

Cleanliness—	General condition	Good.
	Number of Notices served under P.H. Acts ...	None.
	Number of Notices to cleanse under Sec. 2 ...	3 Verbal.
	Legal Proceedings	None.
Air Space—	General Condition	Good.
	Number of Notices to abate over-crowding ...	None.
	Number of Notices to affix card, Sec. 3 (4) ...	None.
	Legal Proceedings	None.
Ventilation—	General Condition	Good.
	Number of Notices under P.H. Act ...	None.
	Legal Proceedings	None.

Means of Ventilation—Any action under the new powers of Sec. 7 :—Doors, Windows, and Fire Places.

Drainage of Wet Floors—Action under Sec. 8 :—None ; floors in good condition.

(C) Additional Sanitation for "Retail Bakehouses." Secs. 97 to 102.

Number of such premises in the District, 1.

Note as to its General Sanitary Condition :—Fair.

As to Limewashing, &c., s. 99 :—Notices served, 1 ; Defects remedied, 1.

Any proceedings under Sec. 98 as to retail Bakehouses sanitarily unfit :—None.

(Ca) Underground Bakehouses—Number of such premises in District :—None.

(F) Home Work—Secs. 107 to 115 :—Total number of Lists of Outworkers received during 1903, none.

(G) General.

Number and nature of sanitary defects, reported to the Authority by H.M. Inspectors, during 1903 :—None.

Number of infringements reported by Sanitary Authority to H.M. Inspector (*e.g.*, s. 133) :—None.

General Observations :—All places have been found in a good condition.

R. E. BROWN, L.R.C.P., &c.

February 12th, 1904.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. All defective midden-privies, and those requiring much repairs should be replaced by ash-closets, and all fouling of the soil in the vicinity of these buildings should be prohibited.

2. The making, paving, and channelling of the back streets, and the taking over of the same by the Council.

3. Improvement in ventilation and lighting of Cow-sheds.

4. The substitution of W.C's and pails or buckets for dry refuse where contents of midden-privies have to be wheeled throug passages into into the street.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. E. BROWN, L.R.C.P.

February, 12th, 1904.

C. THWAITES, PRINTER, STATIONER, ETC., MARKET PLACE, DURHAM.